

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.

Application No. 09/231,114

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A network system comprising:

a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and

a controller that controls the terminals via the network;

the controller comprising:

selecting means for selecting one of the plurality of terminals based on a user's designation; and

requesting means for requesting the selected terminal to transmit, to the controller, information on all the interconnected terminals;

wherewith the selected terminal transmits a request to the other interconnected terminals to obtain the information on the other interconnected terminals, the other interconnected terminals forward to the selected terminal the information on the other interconnected terminals in response to the request, and the selected terminal forwards to the controller the information from the other interconnected terminals and information on the selected terminal.

2. (Previously Presented) The network system defined in claim 1, wherewith the information on each of the other interconnected terminals includes link information for identifying the each terminal on the network.

3. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 1 wherein at least two terminals are selected by the selecting means, and one of the at least two terminals is designated by the controller.

4. (Original) The network system defined in claim 1, further comprising:

an interface interconnecting the at least one terminal and the network;

Application No. 09/231,114

the controller further including an interface information obtaining means for obtaining information on the interface therefrom when the at least one terminal transmits the information on all the terminals to the controller.

5. (Original) The network system defined in claim 4, wherein the controller further includes a setting changing means for changing the setting or settings of the terminal transmitting the information to the controller, or of the interface.

6. (Original) The network system defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one terminal further includes a memory for storing the information on all the terminals.

7. (Original) The network system defined in claim 1, wherein each of the interconnected terminals is a printer or a scanner.

8. (Currently Amended) A network system comprising:
a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and
a control computer controlling the terminals via the network;
wherein at least one of the terminals selected by the control computer based on a user's designation transmits a request to the other terminals to obtain the information on the other terminals, the other interconnected terminals forward to the selected terminal the information on the other terminals in response to the request, and the at least one of the selected terminals forwards to the controller control computer the information from the other terminals and information on the selected terminal.

9. (Original) The network system defined in claim 8, wherein the at least one terminal further includes a memory for storing the information on all the terminals.

10. (Original) The network system defined in claim 8, wherein each of the interconnected terminals is a printer or a scanner.

11. (Previously Presented) A terminal for connecting via a network to a plurality of other terminals, the terminal comprising:

Application No. 09/231,114

requesting means for requesting the other terminals to obtain information on the other terminals, wherein the other terminals forward the information on the other terminals in response to the request, and to forward the obtained information on the other terminals to the terminal; and

a transmitting means for transmitting to the network information on the terminal and the obtained information on the other terminals based on a request from the network.

12. (Original) The terminal defined in claim 11, wherein the information on each of the other terminals includes link information for identifying the each terminal on the network.

13. (Original) The terminal defined in claim 11, further comprising a memory for storing the information on the other terminals.

14. (Original) The terminal defined in claim 11, which is a printer or a scanner.

15. (Previously Presented) A process for controlling by a controller connected to a network a plurality of terminals connected to the network, the process comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the terminals through the controller based on a user's designation;

causing the selected one of the terminals to transmit a request to the other terminals to obtain information on the other terminals, and wherein the other terminals forward to the selected terminal the information on the other terminals in response to the request; and

causing the selected terminal to transmit the obtained information on the other terminals and information on the selected terminal to the controller.

Application No. 09/231,114

16. (Previously Presented) The process defined in claim 15, wherein the selected terminal is adapted to obtain the information on the other terminals therefrom, and transmit the obtained information on the other terminals and the information on the selected terminal to the controller.

17. (Previously Presented) A recording medium that stores a program for execution by a controller in a network system including a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network and controlled by the controller via the network,

at least two of the terminals being each adapted to obtain information on the other terminals therefrom, and transmit the obtained information on the other terminals and information on the each terminal to the controller,

the program including the steps of:

selecting one of the at least two terminals through the controller based on a user's designation; and

requesting the selected terminal to transmit a request to the other terminals to obtain the information on the other terminals, the other terminals forward to the selected terminal the information on the other terminals in response to the request, and the selected terminal forwards to the controller the information on the other terminals and information on the selected terminal.

18. (Original) The recording medium defined in claim 17, wherein the program further includes the step of switching from the selected terminal to the other or another of the at least two terminals.

19. (Original) The recording medium defined in claim 17, wherein the network system further includes an interface interconnecting each of the at least two terminals and the network;

Application No. 09/231,114

the program further including the step of obtaining information on the interface connected to the selected terminal from the interface when the selected terminal transmits the information on all the terminals to the controller.

20. (Original) The recording medium defined in claim 19, wherin the program further includes the step of changing the setting or settings of the terminal transmitting the information to the controller, or of the interface connected to the terminal.

21. (Original) The recording medium defined in claim 17, wherin each of the terminals is a printer or a scanner.

22. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 1 wherin the selected terminal judges whether or not each of the other terminals is made from a same maker as the selected terminal.

23. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 22 wherein if the one of the other terminals is made from the same maker as the selected terminal, the selected terminal obtains information on the one of the other terminals.

24. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 22 wherein a list of the information collected on the selected terminal is displayed on a display of the controller, and, when a terminal on the network is specified on the display, information on the specified terminal is displayed on the display.

25. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 8 wherin the selected terminal judges whether or not each of the other terminals is made from a same maker as the selected terminal.

26. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 25 wherin if the one of the other terminals is made from the same maker as the selected terminal, the selected terminal obtains information on the one of the other terminals.

Application No. 09/231,114

27. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 25 wherein a list of the information collected on the selected terminal is displayed on a display of the controller, and, when a terminal on the network is specified on the display, information on the specified terminal is displayed on the display.

28. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 15 wherein the selected terminal judges whether or not each of the other terminals is made from a same maker as the selected terminal.

29. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 28 wherein if the one of the other terminals is made from the same maker as the selected terminal, the selected terminal obtains information on the one of the other terminals.

30. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 28 wherein a list of the information collected on the selected terminal is displayed on a display of the controller, and, when a terminal on the network is specified on the display, information on the specified terminal is displayed on the display.

31. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 17 wherein the selected terminal judges whether or not each of the other terminals is made from a same maker as the selected terminal.

32. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 31 wherein if the one of the other terminals is made from the same maker as the selected terminal, the selected terminal obtains information on the one of the other terminals.

33. (Previously Presented) A network system according to claim 31 wherein a list of the information collected on the selected terminal is displayed on a display of the controller, and, when a terminal on the network is specified on the display, information on the specified terminal is displayed on the display.